

little bit more of what already belongs to them.

This legislation was passed because Republicans think the tax burden on the middle class is too high. Revenues to Uncle Sam are at record levels. Taxes paid in Washington have risen steadily higher since the days of Ronald Reagan ended.

The idea that the Federal Government, of all things, can be trusted better to spend our money than the people that earned it, is simply mind-boggling.

FDA MISGUIDED ON PRIORITIES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Food and Drug Administration has approved a new state-of-the-art antidepressant for dogs. The FDA says "American canines are suffering from anxiety." Think about it, no barking beagles, no more whining weimaraners, no more defecating Dobermans.

Meanwhile, the FDA continues to deny approval for certain cancer-treating drugs to help mom and dad.

Beam me up. It is evident that the FDA has gone to the dogs. What is next, Viagra for felines?

I yield back all the misguided priorities of the Food and Drug Administration.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, when we think of our children's schooling, we think of books, classrooms, computers and things like flash cards, spelling tests and calculators. We do not think of bureaucrats, bureaucratic programs and stacks of paperwork.

As we stand here today, children are sitting in their kindergarten through 12th grade classrooms, learning everything from spelling the word "house" to a method of reaching a calculus derivative. They are learning with a teacher, and with the use of classroom tools.

The very small part that the Federal Government does play in adding value to the elementary and secondary education experience should be to fund classroom activity directly.

Dollars to the Classroom: A simple, but profound, concept. Instead of keeping education dollars here in Washington, let us send our Federal dollars directly to the parents, teachers and principals of our local public schools, local people, who are truly helping our children to learn.

BUDGET SURPLUS BELONGS TO TAXPAYERS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the President said something recently in Buffalo, New York, that I think perfectly captures the attitude of our some of our friends on the left when it comes to tax cuts.

In Buffalo the President spoke about what should be done with the projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years. He said, "We could give it all back to you and hope that you spend it right, but . . ."

"Hope that you spend it right?" Excuse me, what exactly does the President mean when he says "hope that you spend it right?" Is the budget surplus something that belongs to the government, or does it belong to the people who earn the money?

Well, it does not belong to Washington, and it does not belong to the politicians. It belongs to the people who sent the money to Washington in the first place. They are called taxpayers, and, yes, some of us believe that they ought to get some of it back.

TEACHER TECHNOLOGY TRAINING ACT

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will provide teachers with the technology training that they need to meet the classroom challenges of the 21st Century.

The Teacher Technology Training Act would include technology, teacher training and professional development programs that are authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act of 1994.

What it would do is it would require states to incorporate technology requirements in teacher training content and performance standards. We certainly do need this. During the 104th Congress, language was included in the Telecommunications Act to provide affordable access to the Internet for our Nation's schools.

Well, with all its possibilities, technology alone cannot improve our system of education. It could be just a useless baby-sitter, providing little educational benefit, without the help of the classroom teacher.

The classroom teacher is the key to success in bringing technology into our schools. All too often, however, teachers are expected to incorporate technology into the classroom, without even being given the training to do so.

So this bill would require that they have it. It costs no money. It would be included, and our classrooms must have teachers who know how to use technology in order for our children to succeed into the next century.

I hope my colleagues will join in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, February 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 8, 1999 at 12:35 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the National Drug Control Strategy for 1999.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH.

1999 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Veterans Affairs, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

On behalf of the American people, I am pleased to transmit the 1999 National Drug Control Strategy to the Congress. This Strategy renews and advances our efforts to counter the threat of drugs—a threat that continues to cost our Nation over 14,000 lives and billions of dollars each year.

There is some encouraging progress in the struggle against drugs. The 1998 Monitoring the Future study found that youth drug use has leveled off and in many instances is on the decline—the second straight year of progress after years of steady increases. The study also found a significant strengthening of youth attitudes toward drugs: young people increasingly perceive drug use as a risky and unacceptable behavior. The rate of drug-related murders continues to decline, down from 1,302 in 1992 to 786 in 1997. Overseas, we have witnessed a decline in cocaine production by 325 metric tons in Bolivia and Peru over the last 4 years. Coca cultivation in Peru plunged 56 percent since 1995.

Nevertheless, drugs still exact a tremendous toll on this Nation. In a 10-year period, over 100,000 Americans will